

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD ARPA SURVEY 2021



CITY OF SPRINGFIELD 2021 ARPA SURVEY

Prepared for

The City of Springfield

Springfield, Missouri

Prepared by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Results from the 2021 City of Springfield ARPA Survey are based on 1,438 completed questionnaires (1,237 mail and 201 online) of Springfield residents conducted during October of 2021. Overall findings have a +/- 2.6% of error (95% confidence interval).

The survey was designed, administered, and analyzed by **Opinion Research Specialists, LLC** of Springfield, Missouri. Survey findings are summarized below.

ARPA Funding Categories Prioritized by #1 Rating

- Using a 5-point scale, residents were asked how much of a priority the Springfield City Council should place on each of eight ARPA funding categories. The funding categories that residents felt should receive the highest priority (i.e., a rating of 1 on the 5-point scale) are listed below in descending order.
 - Public safety and crime prevention (55% of residents assigned a rating of 1)
 - Homeless and housing services (40%)
 - Community health and wellness (37%)
 - Premium pay for essential workers (36%)
 - Stabilizing and revitalizing neighborhoods (29%)
 - Quality of life (29%)
 - Economic recovery and growth (24%)
 - Public facility preservation and enhancement (22%)
- With the exception of younger respondents (age 18-45), “public safety and crime prevention” was rated a top funding priority by a majority of respondents regardless of their demographic or geographic attributes. This was especially true for older respondents (69% v. 41% for younger respondents).

- Younger respondents were much more likely to view “homeless and housing services” as a top funding priority than all other demographic and geographic groups.
- Younger respondents were more likely than older and middle-age respondents to rate “quality of life” as a top funding priority.
- Nonwhite respondents, Zone 3 residents, and citizens of southside Springfield were more likely to view “economic recovery and growth” as a top funding category (rating of 1) than their demographic and geographic counterparts.
- Residents in Zones 1 and 2 assigned a higher priority to “stabilizing/revitalizing neighborhoods” than residents in Zones 3 and 4.
- Business owners, more so than nonprofit employees, viewed “stabilizing/revitalizing neighborhoods,” “economic recovery/growth,” and “public facility preservation/enhancement” as top funding priorities (#1 rating). Nonprofit employees, on the other hand, were significantly more inclined to view “quality of life” funding as a top priority (40%).

ARPA Funding Categories Prioritized by #1 + #2 Rating

- The eight ARPA funding categories are listed below in descending order of priority based on the combined rating of 1 (highest rating) + 2 (second highest rating).
 - Public safety and crime prevention (74% of residents assigned a rating of 1 + 2)
 - Homeless and housing services (60%)
 - Premium pay for essential workers (59%)
 - Community health and wellness (58%)
 - Stabilizing and revitalizing neighborhoods (56%)
 - Quality of life (51%)
 - Economic recovery and growth (46%)
 - Public facility preservation and enhancement (46%)

- With the exception of younger respondents, at least 70% of all respondents (regardless of their demographic or geographic traits) assigned a priority rating of either 1 or 2 to “public safety and crime prevention.” This was especially true for older respondents (86% v. 55% for younger respondents).
- Younger respondents, more so than all other demographic and geographic groups, viewed “homeless and housing services” and “premium pay for essential workers” as top funding priorities.
- “Community health/wellness” funding received a rating of 1 or 2 by 69% of Zone 3 residents — a much higher percentage than those reported in the other three zones.
- 66% of Zone 1 residents assigned a high priority (1 + 2 rating) to “stabilizing/revitalizing neighborhoods” compared to 48% of Zone 4 residents.
- 53% of Zone 4 residents rated “public facility preservation/enhancement” as a high funding priority compared to less than 50% of all other demographic/geographic groups.
- Nonwhite respondents, Zone 3 residents, and southside Springfield residents were the only groups in which at least 50% assigned a priority rating of either 1 or 2 to “economic recovery and growth” funding.
- With the exception of business employees and their relatively high priority rating of “premium pay for essential workers” (64%), differences in ratings by work status were fairly minimal.
- Business owners were significantly more likely than nonprofit employees to view the funding of “stabilizing/revitalizing neighborhoods” and “economic recovery/growth” as a high priority (1 + 2 rating).

Funding Categories That Should Receive the Most Emphasis

- Respondents were asked to select the three funding categories they believed should receive the most emphasis from the City Council. The three funding categories most often selected were public safety and crime prevention (selected as a top three category by 56% of respondents), followed by homeless and housing services (39%) and community health and wellness (36%).
 - **Public safety and crime prevention (56%)**
 - **Homeless and housing services (39%)**
 - **Community health and wellness (36%)**
 - Premium pay for essential workers (32%)
 - Stabilizing and revitalizing neighborhoods (30%)
 - Quality of life (28%)
 - Public facility preservation and enhancement (24%)
 - Economic recovery and growth (23%)

INTRODUCTION

The 2021 City of Springfield ARPA Survey was commissioned by the City of Springfield. The survey was designed, administered, and analyzed by **Opinion Research Specialists, LLC** of Springfield, Missouri.

SURVEY DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

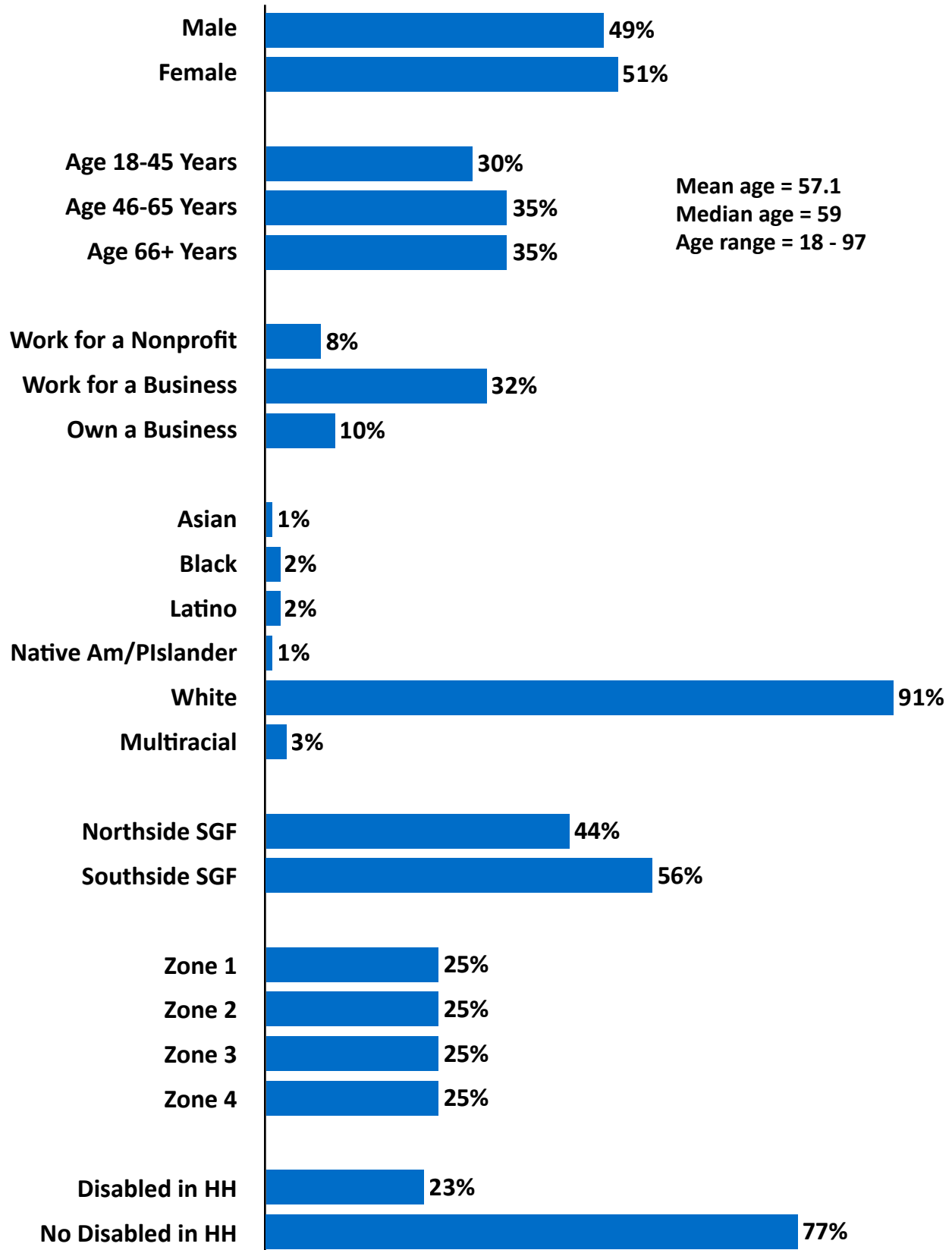
Survey results are based on a representative sample of 1,438 residents of the City of Springfield. A four-page questionnaire was mailed on September 27, to 5,000 randomly selected households living within the city limits of Springfield. Springfield residents were asked to return their completed questionnaires by October 15 in the postage-paid, self-addressed envelope provided. These randomly selected Springfield residents were also given the option of completing the survey online instead of by mail. A total of 1,438 completed questionnaires were returned (1,237 by mail and 201 online). Assuming a 95% mail delivery rate, the survey response rate was 30.3%.

INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Overall survey results, based on 1,438 completed questionnaires, have a margin of error of approximately +/- 2.6% at the 95% confidence interval. For example, if a response listed in the report is 60% one can be 95% confident that the “true” percentage, that which would have been attained if every adult resident in Springfield had participated in the survey, is between 57.4% and 62.6%. Margin of error increases when subsets of the total sample are analyzed (e.g., male versus female respondents).

Statistical weighting of sample data was conducted to ensure a representative sample and to maximize the external validity of survey findings.

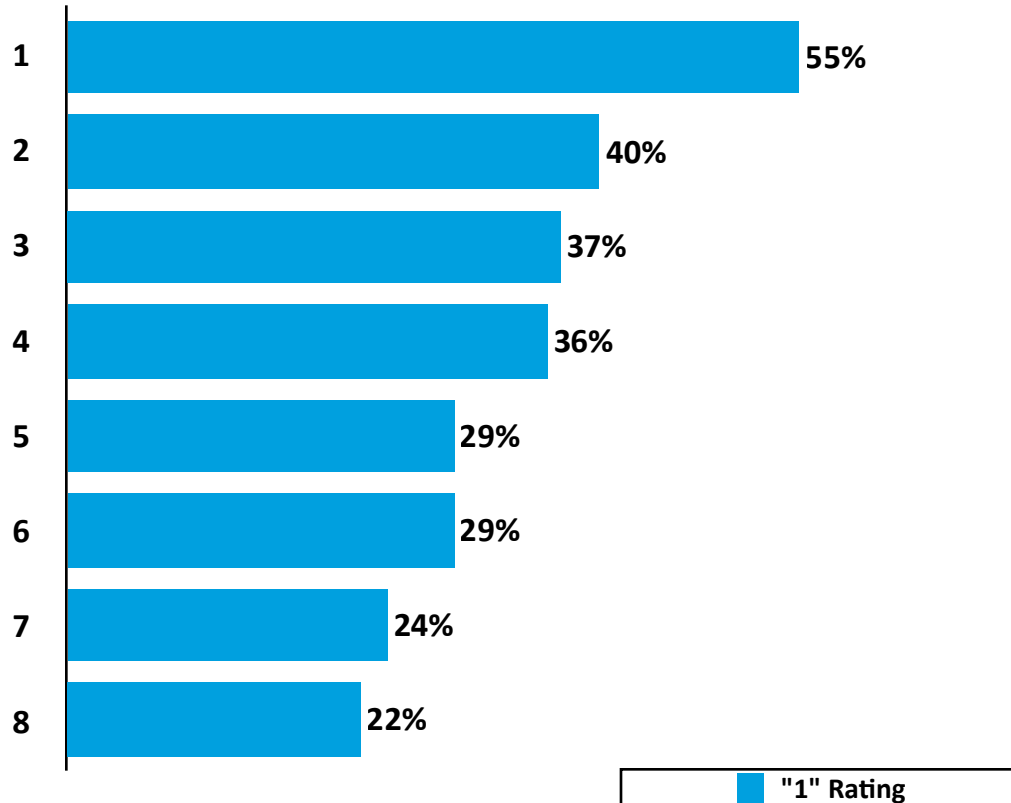
SURVEY RESPONDENT PROFILE



Survey Results

ARPA Funding Categories Prioritized by #1 Rating

Using a 5-point scale, residents were asked how much of a priority the Springfield City Council should place on each of eight ARPA funding categories. Public safety/crime prevention was viewed as a top priority (rating of 1) by 55% of residents, followed by homeless/housing services (40%), community health/wellness (37%), and premium pay for essential workers (36%). Each of the remaining four ARPA categories received a rating of 1 (top priority) by less than 30% of respondents.



KEY

1. **Public Safety and Crime Prevention**
2. Homeless and Housing Services
3. Community Health and Wellness
4. Premium Pay for Essential Workers
5. Stabilizing and Revitalizing Neighborhoods
6. Quality of Life
7. Economic Recovery and Growth
8. Public Facility Preservation and Enhancement

ARPA Funding Categories (#1 Rating) by Respondent Attributes

With the exception of younger respondents (age 18-45), “public safety and crime prevention” was rated a top funding priority by a majority of respondents regardless of their demographic or geographic attributes — especially true for older respondents. Conversely, younger respondents were much more likely to view “homeless and housing services” as a top funding priority than middle-age/older respondents as well as all other demographic and geographic groups. Zone 4 residents were considerably less likely than residents in the other three zones to assign a rating of 1 (top priority) to “community health/wellness” and “premium pay for essential workers.”

	Public Safety/ Crime Prevention	Homeless/ Housing Services	Community Health/ Wellness	Premium Pay for Essential Workers
Overall	55%	40%	37%	36%
18-45 years old	41%	49%	42%	43%
46-65 years old	54%	35%	33%	31%
66+ years old	69%	36%	36%	34%
Male	54%	36%	34%	32%
Female	56%	44%	40%	40%
Nonwhite	54%	41%	44%	31%
White	55%	40%	37%	36%
Disabled Person in HH	54%	43%	43%	40%
No Disabled Person	55%	39%	35%	35%
Zone 1	56%	45%	35%	40%
Zone 2	52%	35%	39%	39%
Zone 3	55%	43%	44%	35%
Zone 4	57%	35%	30%	29%
Northside SGF	54%	42%	34%	38%
Southside SGF	57%	38%	38%	34%

ARPA Funding Categories (#1 Rating) by Respondent Attributes

Younger respondents were more likely than older and middle-age respondents to rate “quality of life” as a top funding priority. Moreover, nonwhite respondents, Zone 3 residents, and southside Springfield residents were more likely to view “economic recovery and growth” as a top funding category (rating of 1) than their demographic and geographic counterparts. Residents in Zones 1 and 2 assigned a higher priority to “stabilizing/revitalizing neighborhoods” than residents in Zones 3 and 4.

	Stabilizing/ Revitalizing Neighborhoods	Quality of Life	Economic Recovery/ Growth	Public Facility Preservation/ Enhancement
Overall	29%	29%	24%	22%
18-45 years old	32%	35%	23%	20%
46-65 years old	29%	27%	26%	19%
66+ years old	26%	26%	23%	27%
Male	30%	29%	27%	24%
Female	28%	29%	21%	20%
Nonwhite	28%	25%	32%	18%
White	29%	30%	23%	22%
Disabled Person in HH	27%	28%	23%	17%
No Disabled Person	29%	30%	24%	23%
Zone 1	32%	26%	20%	21%
Zone 2	34%	33%	21%	20%
Zone 3	24%	29%	30%	21%
Zone 4	25%	28%	26%	26%
Northside SGF	32%	29%	20%	20%
Southside SGF	27%	29%	28%	24%

ARPA Funding Categories (#1 Rating) by Respondent Work Status

Tables 1 and 2 below examine priority ratings on the eight ARPA funding categories among business owners and those employed by nonprofit organizations or a business. Respondents assigning a rating of 1 (highest priority) to the four funding categories in Table 1 do not vary significantly on the basis of work status. However, all three work groups are less likely to rate these four funding categories as a top priority compared to the overall sample.

As noted in Table 2 below, business owners were far more likely than nonprofit employees to view “stabilizing/revitalizing neighborhoods,” “economic recovery/growth,” and “public facility preservation/enhancement” as top funding priorities (#1 rating). Nonprofit employees, on the other hand, were much more inclined to view “quality of life” funding as a top priority (40%).

Table 1

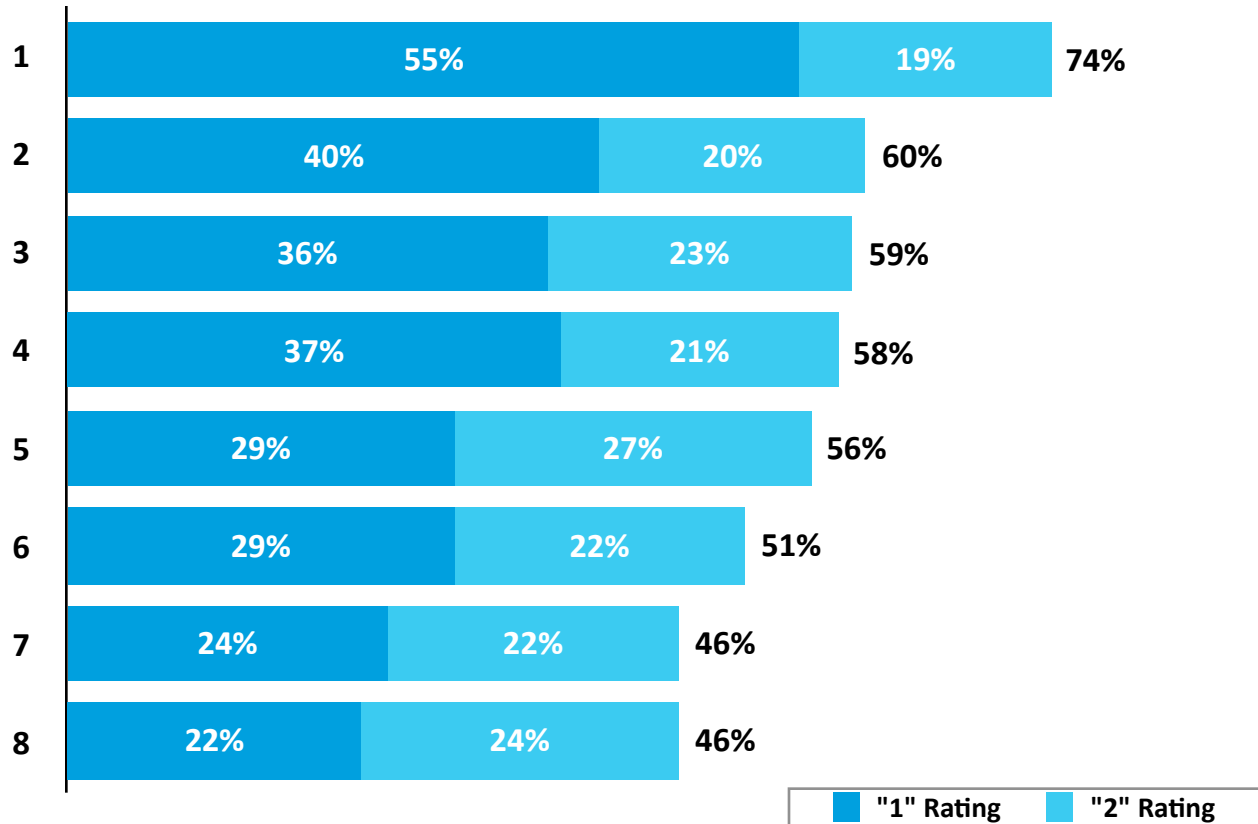
	Public Safety/ Crime Prevention	Homeless/ Housing Services	Community Health/ Wellness	Premium Pay for Essential Workers
Overall	55%	40%	37%	36%
Work for a Nonprofit	47%	32%	34%	26%
Work for a Business	46%	39%	30%	35%
Own a Business	51%	33%	33%	31%

Table 2

	Stabilizing/ Revitalizing Neighborhoods	Quality of Life	Economic Recovery/ Growth	Public Facility Preservation/ Enhancement
Overall	29%	29%	24%	22%
Work for a Nonprofit	20%	40%	17%	13%
Work for a Business	29%	24%	21%	22%
Own a Business	33%	32%	32%	24%

ARPA Funding Categories Prioritized by #1 + #2 Rating

Using a 5-point scale, residents were asked how much of a priority the Springfield City Council should place on each of eight ARPA funding categories. Approximately 75% of residents assigned either a rating of 1 or 2 to public safety/crime prevention, followed by homeless/housing services (60%), premium pay for essential workers (59%), community health/wellness (58%), and stabilizing/revitalizing neighborhoods (56%). The remaining three funding categories received a rating of 1 or 2 by 46% to 51% of respondents.



KEY

1. Public Safety and Crime Prevention
2. Homeless and Housing Services
3. Premium Pay for Essential Workers
4. Community Health and Wellness
5. Stabilizing and Revitalizing Neighborhoods
6. Quality of Life
7. Economic Recovery and Growth
8. Public Facility Preservation and Enhancement

ARPA Funding Categories (#1 + #2 Rating) by Respondent Attributes

With the exception of younger respondents (55%), at least 70% of all respondents (regardless of their demographic or geographic traits) assigned a priority rating of either 1 or 2 to “public safety and crime prevention.” Notably, 86% of older respondents rated this funding category as a 1 or 2. Younger respondents, more so than all other demographic and geographic groups, viewed “homeless and housing services” and “premium pay for essential workers” as top funding priorities. Finally, “community health/wellness” received a rating of 1 or 2 by 69% of Zone 3 residents — a much higher percentage than those reported in the other three zones.

	Public Safety/ Crime Prevention	Homeless/ Housing Services	Premium Pay for Essential Workers	Community Health and Wellness
Overall	74%	60%	59%	58%
18-45 years old	55%	67%	68%	59%
46-65 years old	78%	56%	54%	55%
66+ years old	86%	58%	57%	60%
Male	70%	56%	53%	52%
Female	79%	64%	66%	64%
Nonwhite	71%	60%	62%	66%
White	74%	61%	59%	58%
Disabled Person in HH	76%	64%	63%	64%
No Disabled Person	73%	59%	58%	56%
Zone 1	73%	63%	64%	57%
Zone 2	71%	56%	60%	56%
Zone 3	79%	63%	60%	69%
Zone 4	74%	57%	53%	50%
Northside SGF	74%	61%	62%	56%
Southside SGF	74%	59%	57%	58%

ARPA Funding Categories (#1 + #2 Rating) by Respondent Attributes

About two-thirds of Zone 1 residents (66%) assigned a high priority (1 + 2 rating) to ARPA funding for the purpose of “stabilizing/revitalizing neighborhoods” compared to 48% of Zone 4 residents. In contrast, more than 50% of Zone 4 residents rated “public facility preservation/enhancement” as a high priority compared to less than 50% of all other demographic/geographic groups. Nonwhite respondents, Zone 3 residents, and southside Springfield residents were the only groups in which at least 50% assigned a priority rating of either 1 or 2 to “economic recovery and growth.”

	Stabilizing/ Revitalizing Neighborhoods	Quality of Life	Economic Recovery/ Growth	Public Facility Preservation/ Enhancement
Overall	56%	51%	46%	46%
18-45 years old	59%	58%	44%	48%
46-65 years old	56%	49%	48%	41%
66+ years old	53%	48%	46%	49%
Male	56%	51%	48%	49%
Female	56%	51%	44%	43%
Nonwhite	60%	55%	58%	41%
White	56%	51%	45%	47%
Disabled Person in HH	52%	51%	45%	41%
No Disabled Person	57%	52%	46%	47%
Zone 1	66%	52%	42%	42%
Zone 2	57%	55%	42%	43%
Zone 3	52%	53%	53%	46%
Zone 4	48%	45%	47%	53%
Northside SGF	61%	51%	40%	44%
Southside SGF	53%	51%	50%	47%

ARPA Funding Categories (#1 + #2 Rating) by Respondent Work Status

The tables below display priority ratings (#1 + #2) for the eight funding categories by business owners and those employed by nonprofit organizations or a business. As seen in Table 1 below, with the exception of business employees and their relatively high priority rating of “premium pay for essential workers” (64%), differences in ratings by work status were fairly minimal.

As noted in Table 2 below, business owners were significantly more likely than nonprofit employees to view the funding of “stabilizing/revitalizing neighborhoods” and “economic recovery/growth” as a high priority (1 + 2 rating).

Table 1

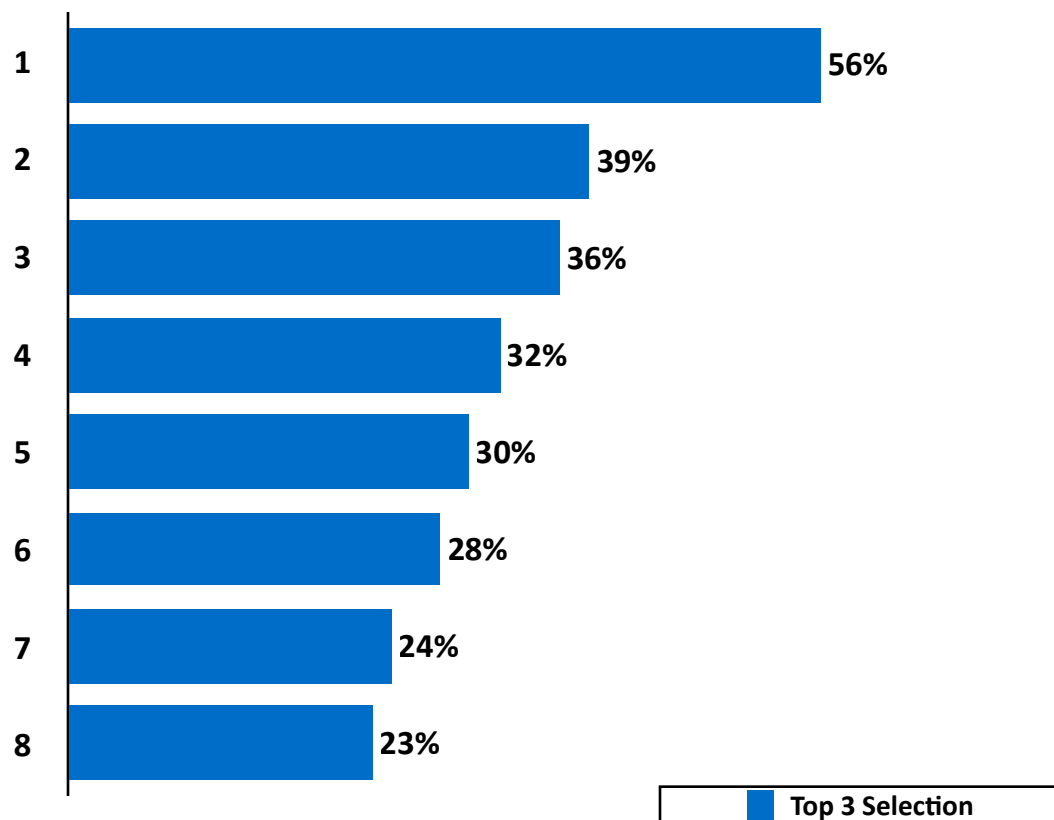
	Public Safety/ Crime Prevention	Homeless/ Housing Services	Premium Pay for Essential Workers	Community Health and Wellness
Overall	74%	60%	59%	58%
Work for a Nonprofit	71%	54%	54%	55%
Work for a Business	65%	62%	64%	49%
Own a Business	73%	56%	51%	54%

Table 2

	Stabilizing/ Revitalizing Neighborhoods	Quality of Life	Economic Recovery/ Growth	Public Facility Preservation/ Enhancement
Overall	56%	51%	46%	46%
Work for a Nonprofit	50%	58%	40%	36%
Work for a Business	60%	47%	42%	46%
Own a Business	66%	55%	57%	42%

Funding Categories That Should Receive the Most Emphasis

In addition to asking residents to rate the priority level for each of the eight ARPA funding categories on a 5-point scale, residents were also asked to select the three funding categories they believed should receive the most emphasis from the City Council. The three funding categories most frequently mentioned were public safety/crime prevention (selected as a top three category by 56% of respondents), followed by homeless/housing services (39%) and community health/wellness (36%).



KEY

1. Public Safety and Crime Prevention
2. Homeless and Housing Services
3. Community Health and Wellness
4. Premium Pay for Essential Workers
5. Stabilizing and Revitalizing Neighborhoods
6. Quality of Life
7. Public Facility Preservation and Enhancement
8. Economic Recovery and Growth

Questionnaire



September 27, 2021

Dear Springfield Resident:

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) passed by Congress earlier this year, the City of Springfield will receive 40 million dollars in federal money. To ensure that the money is spent in ways that best meet the needs of Springfield, the City Council is asking for citizen input as it reviews and prioritizes various projects that qualify for funding under the ARPA guidelines.

To assist in this effort, your household has been randomly selected to participate in a citywide survey. Please have an adult in the household (age 18 or older) take a few minutes to complete this survey. The information you provide is completely anonymous and will not reveal your identity.

Mail your completed questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid, self-addressed envelope by **October 15, 2021**. Your completed questionnaire will go directly to Opinion Research Specialists, a local independent research company, who will collect and analyze the results.

For your convenience, you also have the option of completing the survey online rather than by mail. To access the online survey, please go to www.SpringfieldSurvey2021.com.

If you have any questions, please call (417) 380-3352. Thank you for your participation.

Matt Simpson
Mayor Pro Tem Matt Simpson

Heather Hardinger
Heather Hardinger, General Seat D

Andrew Lear
Andrew Lear, General Seat A

Abe McGull
Abe McGull, Zone 2

2021 Springfield American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Survey

ARPA Funding Categories:

ARPA funding to local governments is restricted to the following general categories:

A. Community Health and Wellness

Investments in public health due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as physical, mental health and substance abuse programs and support for social services and programming.

B. Public Facility Preservation and Enhancement

Investments in city-provided facilities and/or services, such as streets, bridges, public buildings, cybersecurity upgrades, and public records preservation.

C. Economic Recovery and Growth

Investments in economic sectors negatively impacted by the pandemic such as tourism, travel and hospitality; as well as efforts to increase job creation and workforce training.

D. Quality of Life

Investments in parks, recreation, enhancement of public spaces, community and recreation centers, and improved connectivity and integration of alternate modes of transportation such as greenway trails and projects to improve walkability.

E. Homeless and Housing Services

Investments in programs and support tools for city-wide partners serving the vulnerable populations impacted by the pandemic. These would include homeless and affordable housing support programs and other initiatives aimed at helping vulnerable populations.

F. Stabilizing and Revitalizing Neighborhoods

Investments in housing rehabilitation programs; infill and redevelopment grants; commercial corridor investments and infrastructure investments such as sidewalks, stormwater, sewers, and other public spaces accessible to neighborhoods.

G. Public Safety and Crime Prevention

Investments in public safety programs, facilities, and equipment to support violence and crime prevention initiatives and police response including enhanced code enforcement.

H. Premium Pay for Essential Workers

Provide premium pay to essential workers, such as healthcare, grocery and food services, education, childcare, sanitation, transit and first responders.

1. For each of the following ARPA funding categories, please indicate how much of a priority the Springfield City Council should place on that category.

	<u>High</u>		<u>Medium</u>		<u>Low</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
A. Community Health and Wellness	1	2	3	4	5	9
B. Public Facility Preservation/Enhancement	1	2	3	4	5	9
C. Economic Recovery and Growth	1	2	3	4	5	9
D. Quality of Life	1	2	3	4	5	9
E. Homeless and Housing Services	1	2	3	4	5	9
F. Stabilizing/Revitalizing Neighborhoods	1	2	3	4	5	9
G. Public Safety and Crime Prevention	1	2	3	4	5	9
H. Premium Pay for Essential Workers	1	2	3	4	5	9

2. Which THREE categories listed above do you think should receive the MOST emphasis from City Council? Record your answers in the boxes below using the **letters** from Question 1 above.

Note: If you have a specific project or program you would like the Springfield City Council to consider, please go to www.springfieldmo.gov/arpaidea and complete the ARPA project idea form.

Demographics

These last few questions are about you and your household and are used to group responses to the survey. Your responses are completely confidential and anonymous.

3. Your affiliation with the City of Springfield? (Check all that apply.)

- a. I am a resident of Springfield
- b. I work for a nonprofit organization in Springfield
- c. I work for a business in Springfield
- d. I own a business in Springfield

4. Use the map to identify which City Council Zone you live in.

- a. Zone 1
- b. Zone 2
- c. Zone 3
- d. Zone 4

5. Your home ZIP code? 65 _____

6. Your race/ethnic background:

- a. Asian
- b. Black / African American
- c. Hispanic / Latino
- d. Native American / Other Pacific Islander
- e. White
- f. Multiracial
- g. Prefer not to say

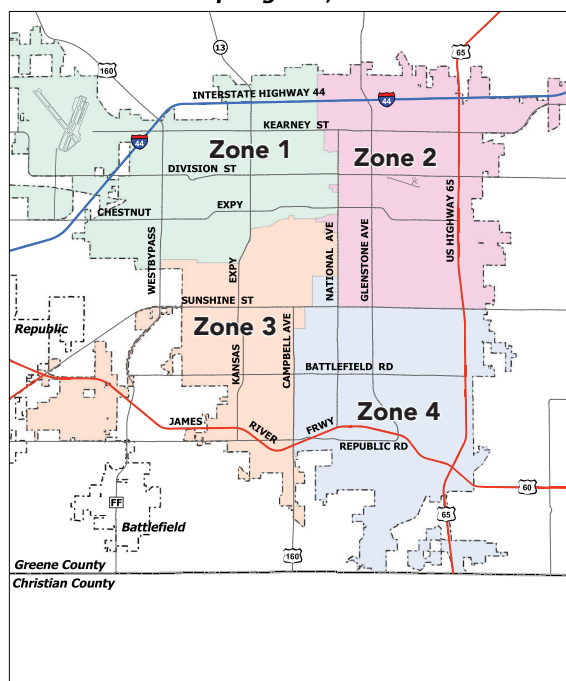
7. Your gender:

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Non-Binary
- d. Other
- e. Prefer not to say

8. Is there a person with a disability in your household? a. Yes b. No

9. Your birth year? 19 _____ OR 20 _____

City Council Zones Springfield, MO



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

Please return your completed questionnaire by **October 15**
in the postage-paid envelope provided.